

Mason Matters!

SPRING 2008

Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross

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A Message From Supervisor Gross

Special Interest Articles:

- **Spotlight by Starlight Concert Schedule**
- **Solid Waste Management Program Comes to Mason District**
- **Meet the 2008-2011 Fairfax County Board of Supervisors**
- **Construction of Route 50 Pedestrian Bridge Continues**
- **Coming Attractions**

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on Cable Channel 16

EVERY THURSDAY AT 7:30 P.M.

EVERY FRIDAY & SUNDAY AT 6:30 P.M.

DAILY ON THE WEB AT WWW.FAIRFAXCOUNTY.GOV/MASON

Dear Mason District Neighbor:

Welcome to our Spring 2008 edition of Mason Matters! Believe it or not, this is my 25th district-wide newsletter in which I provide residents with up-to-date information about county issues. I hope you find these newsletters helpful.

Fairfax County Executive Anthony H. Griffin unveiled his proposed Fiscal Year 2009 General Fund budget in late February. The superheated housing market and double-digit residential assessment increases in Fairfax County have ended. The \$3.3 billion proposal holds county and school spending flat, and includes substantial actions needed to eliminate a deficit of \$120 million caused by worsening conditions in the housing market and a decrease in the county's anticipated investment revenue as a result of Federal Reserve actions in late January.

More than 52 percent of the budget is dedicated to the Fairfax County Public Schools, reflecting the Board's commitment to investing in education on behalf of county residents. However, the proposed transfer of \$1.586 billion is \$63.75 million less than the School Board requested, which will make for some serious discussion during budget meetings. Funding for public safety and gang prevention is maintained, as is the affordable housing fund and the environmental protection/stormwater fund. The only new funding is for positions that support transportation projects, the number one issue in Fairfax County and Northern Virginia.

I hope you will plan to attend the Mason District Budget Town Meeting on Tuesday, March 25 at the new Glasgow Middle School, 4101 Fairfax Parkway in the Alexandria section of Mason District. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. and will feature County Executive Griffin and Deputy County Executive Edward L. Long, Jr. as guest speakers. A question and answer period will follow the presentations. Budget public hearings will be held at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway in Fairfax, on the evenings of March 31, April 1, and April 2. The entire budget may be reviewed at all county libraries and government centers, or access it at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb.

Along with the budget, Spring brings opportunities for more community and family activities. The Mason District Park Spring Egg Hunt for children is scheduled, rain or shine, for Saturday, March 22. Mason District Little League's Opening Day is April 12, and the Annandale Chamber of Commerce "Bed Race" will be held on May 17. A sneak preview of the Spotlight by Starlight free summer concert series at Mason District Park also is included in this issue.

It is a privilege to represent you on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Please do not hesitate to contact my office about any county-related matter of importance to you.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Penny Gross", with a stylized flourish at the end.



Spotlight by Starlight Summer Concert Schedule

Spotlight by Starlight is a free summer concert series presented by the Friends of Mason District Park. All performances are at the Newton W. Edwards Amphitheatre at Mason District Park, 6621 Columbia Pike in Annandale, on Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday beginning at 7:30 pm. Performances for children on Saturday (not listed below) begin at 10 a.m. Shows are cancelled in the event of rain. For rain cancellation and information, call 703-324-SHOW (7469), or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.

JUNE

- 1 City of Fairfax "Concert Band" (Big Band)
- 4 Capital Focus Jazz Band
- 6 Rhonda Vincent & The Rage (Bluegrass)
- 8 Washington Balalaika Orchestra (Russian Folk Music)
- 11 Rick Franklin & His Delta Blues Boys w/ Mike Baytop
- 13 Mexican Flare (Mariachi Music)
- 15 To Be Announced
- 18 Razz'm Jazz'm (Jazz)
- 20 Tom Paxton (Folk)
- 22 Tidewater Guitar Orchestra (Classical Guitar)
- 25 Linwood Taylor (Texas Swing Blues)
- 27 NoorSaaz (Persian)
- 29 National Concert Band (Big Band)

JULY

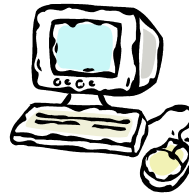
- 2 Brooks Tegler Band (Jazz)
- 4 NO PERFORMANCE
- 6 The Chromatics (A Cappella Pop/Rock)
- 9 The Grandsons (New Orleans Rhythm & Blues)
- 11 Culin School of Traditional Irish Dance
- 13 NVCC Annandale Symphony Orchestra (Summer Pops)
- 16 PRJC - Blue Sky 5 (Jazz)
- 18 Karma from Tibet (Tibetan)
- 20 The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra "Summer Band" (Classic)
- 23 Patty Reese Band (Blues/Roots Rock)
- 25 Kusun Ensemble (West African Dance)
- 27 The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra "Summer Band" (Classic)
- 30 PRJC - Not-So-Modern Jazz Quartet Plus (Jazz)

August

- 1 Chinese Dance Ensemble
- 3 Strolling Strings Ensemble (Classic)
- 6 U.S. Army Band "Blues Jazz Ensemble" (Jazz)
- 8 Sangre Boliviana (Bolivian Dance & Music)
- 10 The Capitol Steps (Satirical Revue)
- 13 PRJC - New Liberation Jazz Band
- 15 U.S. Navy Band "Sea Chanters" (Chorale)
- 17 To Be Announced
- 20 MSG The Acoustic Blues Trio (Piedmont Blues)
- 22 City of Fairfax "Alte Kameraden German" Band (German)
- 24 The All New Genetically Altered Jug Band (Jug Band)
- 27 Big Bertha's Rhythm Kings (Jazz)
- 29 Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble
- 31 SKYLINE Vocal Band (A Cappella)

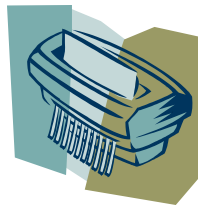
Programs may be subject to change.

Fairfax County's Solid Waste Management Program Comes to Mason District



If you need to recycle an old computer or electronic equipment, the Fairfax County Department of Solid Waste Management will make it easier for you! **On Saturday, April 19, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**, at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale, and in partnership with ServiceSource's Keep It

Green Program, staff from the Solid Waste Management Division will accept ALL computers and peripheral devices for recycling. A \$10 processing fee will be assessed for each CRT monitor to offset environmental management costs. All other computer and peripheral equipment will be accepted at **NO CHARGE**.



Protecting your identity is important. Bring personal and sensitive documents, such as old tax documents, credit card information, expired contracts, and more, and have them shredded. Up to five boxes of paper per resident will be accepted at **NO CHARGE**. This is an ideal opportunity for streamlining files.

For additional information about upcoming recycling events throughout Fairfax County, call 703-324-5230; TTY 711, or visit the Web site: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/recycling. **SAVE THE DATE - Saturday, September 6, 2008**, when the Solid Waste Management Program returns to Mason District to collect Household Hazardous Waste, and provides document shredding services once again. For a list of the household hazardous waste that will be accepted, log on to the Web site.



Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross thanks Soo Yee, pandemic influenza educator with the Fairfax County Health Department, for conducting a Pandemic Influenza educational outreach during the festivities of the Vietnamese Lunar New Year. Information about Pandemic Influenza can be obtained by calling the Health Department at 703-246-6016, or on-line at www.pandemicflu.gov.

Virginia Governor Timothy M. Kaine recently appointed Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross to the Governor's Commission on Climate Change. The 40-member commission was charged to prepare a Climate Change Action Plan by December 15, 2008. The commission will inventory the state's greenhouse gas emissions; evaluate the impacts of climate change on Virginia's citizens, natural resources, and economy; and identify what Virginia needs to do to prepare for the likely consequences of climate change. Commission members were sworn-in on February 1 in Richmond, and will hold public meetings at state universities across the commonwealth. The closest meeting for Mason District residents will be at George Mason University on May 13. Information about the Governor's Commission on Climate Change is available online at www.deg.state.va.us/info/climatechange.html.



(L-R) The 2008-2011 Fairfax County Board of Supervisors includes: Lee District Supervisor Jeff C. McKay, Sully District Supervisor Michael R. Frey, Hunter Mill District Supervisor Catherine M. Hudgins, Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerald W. Hyland, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Gerald E. Connolly, Braddock District Supervisor and Vice Chairman Sharon Bulova, Springfield Supervisor Pat Herrity, Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross, Providence District Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth, and Dranesville Supervisor John W. Foust.

Since the groundbreaking ceremony on October 22, 2007, the mild weather helped the contractor, A&W Construction, stay on schedule as the foundation work and the installation of concrete piers and the pier cap along eastbound Route 50 was completed. The contractor completed driving the “H piles” for the foundation of the piers on westbound Route 50, and will install the ornamental fence along the eastbound and westbound Route 50 shoulders in March. A survey for the bridge footings is complete, and ready for the installation of ADA-compliant ramps that will lead to the three-story tower on each side of the road. All underground utility work is complete, which includes a water main tie-in at the intersection of Peyton Randolph Drive at the Service Road.

The bridge is being fabricated and assembled at a plant in New York, and will have a four-inch thick concrete deck, fence, and lighting. Installation of the bridge span is anticipated for the summer. The \$6 million bridge is funded by the Virginia Department of Transportation, the state agency that controls and maintains the roads in Fairfax County, through its Hazard Elimination Safety Program.

★ The Friends of the George Mason Regional Library will host its popular, semi-annual book sale on April 24, 5 - 9 p.m.; April 25, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; April 26, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; and April 27, 12 - 5 p.m. The book sale will be at the library, 7001 Little River Turnpike in Annandale.

★ The Annandale Chamber of Commerce will host its **Annual Spring Carnival from May 15 - 25** at the K-Mart parking lot,
★ ➤ 4251 John Marr Drive in Annandale. The week-long festivities will include the popular **Bed Race to Benefit Special**
★ **Olympics on May 17** along John Marr Drive. For more information about these events, contact Vicki Burman at 703-256-
★ 7232, by e-mail at info@AnnandaleChamber.com, or visit www.annandalechamber.com.

★ ➤ The Annandale Chamber of Commerce's Awards Banquet and Dance will be held on May 23 at the Star Restaurant, 7203 Little River Turnpike in Annandale. The Lossie J. Tucker Meritorious Service Award, Business of the Year, and other awards will be presented to businesses and residents for their contributions to our community. For more information, contact Vicki Burman, executive director, at 703-256-7232.

★ ➤ The 26th Annual Celebrate Fairfax, our county's largest festival, will be held June 6 - 8 at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway in Fairfax. Enjoy concerts, a Frisbee dog show, a laser show, fireworks, and more. Free parking and shuttle buses are available for easy access. For more information, call 703-324-3247, or visit www.celebratefairfax.org.

★ The 29th Annual Mason District Park Festival will be held on Saturday, September 27, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the park,
★ ➤ 6621 Columbia Pike in Annandale. Enjoy a fun-filled day, with children's rides, live entertainment, and lots of food! Rain
★ date is Sunday, September 28, same hours. For more information, call 703-256-7717.



Community Notes

➤ AARP volunteers will provide free tax help to residents, until April 15, at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale. Walk-in service is available on Mondays and Thursdays: 1- 8 p.m.; Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays: 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.; and Saturdays: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. All returns are filed electronically. Remember to bring with you: last year's tax return, a photo ID, and your Social Security Card. For more information about AARP Tax-Aide, visit www.aarp.org/taxaide, or call 1-888-227-7669.

➤ The Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA) needs furniture donations. Items needed include chests of drawers, sofas, dressers, kitchen or dining room tables and chairs, single, double, and queen size mattresses and box springs (no sofa sleepers). Please contact ACCA at 703-256-9513 to schedule a pick up. All donations will be picked up and delivered to a family in need.

➤ This spring, consider leading a cleanup site as part of the Alice Ferguson Foundation's 20th Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup on Saturday, April 5 from 9 a.m. - 12 noon. You will join thousands of volunteers region-wide in removing trash from our waterways. For information about existing cleanup sites to join, or find a nearby spot in your neighborhood, visit www.potomaccleanup.org/trash_initiative/trash_cleanup.html.

Mason District's Spring Town Meeting

Tuesday, March 25 at 7 p.m.

Glasgow Middle School Lecture Hall
4101 Fairfax Parkway, Alexandria

Join your neighbors and friends to talk about the proposed FY2009 Fairfax County Budget. Joining Supervisor Gross as guest panelists are County Executive Anthony Griffin and Chief Financial Officer Edward Long, who will answer questions after their presentations.

SUPERVISOR PENELOPE A. "PENNY" GROSS
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TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross

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Annandale, VA 22003

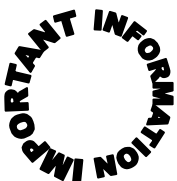
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